Information and Decision Support Tools for Landscape Planning

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Abstract

This interactive mapping site allows you to access and analyze geospatial data and aerial photos for Washington's coastal region. When you access this site you are querying actual databases rather than viewing static pictures of maps. This gives you some ability to analyze data from your desktop without using expensive GIS software. Information that is currently available for viewing includes historic and recent habitat maps, physical features such as unstable slopes watershed boundaries and predominant drift, and human modifications such as roads, railroads, dams and discharge points. This site is alive; the Department of Ecology is working on bringing more data into the atlas to improve public access to information regarding the Washington's coastal ecosystems. We intend to fully integrate the atlas into our coastal management web site as it is developed. Together these sites will provide guidance on characterizing shorelines for local planning, and allow the user to view and download much of the cited data.

Extended Abstract

This interactive mapping site allows you to access and analyze geospatial data for Washington's coastal region. When you access this site you are querying actual databases rather than viewing static pictures of maps. This gives you some ability to analyze data from your desktop without using expensive GIS software. Bookmark this page as a favorite—you must link to the mapping site from the "Start Mapping" icon or these words.

<p style="text-align:center">http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/SMA/atlas_home.html</p>

Here are a few tips for using this site.

- **Go slowly:** Every time you click or resize you force the software to redraw maps, which takes time. If you click about wildly you may overload the system and lose your connection.

- **Get the right tool:** The "Tools" menu on the left hand side of the site is the key to using the site. If you are new to the site, click on "Help For" information on how to use the tools.

- **For the best view:** The Atlas is best viewed with a 1024 x 768 pixel screen resolution using Internet Explorer.

- **This site is alive:** Ecology is working on bringing more data and information into the Atlas, so stop by now and then to explore. Please let us know if you have ideas for improvements. We will take seriously all suggestions that are accompanied by sincere flattery.

- **Check the accuracy!** Many data layers on this site were converted into digital format from paper maps. There are inaccuracies inherent in this process as well as possible errors on the original maps. Refer to the metadata associated with each map layer to ascertain data limitations. These maps are useful in informing broad-scale land use decisions, but should not be used to substitute for site-specific studies carried out by qualified geologists and engineers. Ecology assumes no liability for data depicted on these maps.